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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Letter dated 30 October 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands, have the honour to refer to the Joint Ministerial Statement in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was launched on 14 September at United Nations Headquarters. Ministers from 50 countries have associated themselves with the joint statement. It expresses a strong commitment to the aims of the treaty and is intended to encourage further ratifications of this vital non-proliferation instrument, leading to its entry into force.

A copy of the statement and the list of signatories are attached (see annex). We would be grateful for your assistance in making both available as documents of the General Assembly, under agenda item 73.

(*Signed*) John **Dauth**
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Koichi **Haraguchi**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 30 October 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

1. We, the Foreign Ministers who have issued this statement, join together to reaffirm the vision which was the basis for the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. That vision was for a treaty which would rid the world of nuclear weapon test explosions and would contribute to the systematic and progressive reduction of nuclear weapons and the prevention of nuclear proliferation as a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. The early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which would bring about the cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions, has been identified by the United Nations General Assembly as being central to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. The last Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons also emphasized the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, listing its entry into force as the first of a series of practical steps needed to achieve the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

3. The prevention of the proliferation of materials, technologies and knowledge that can be used for weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important challenges the world is facing today. Additional international tensions have developed since the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was negotiated, which make the entry into force of the treaty, within the broader framework of multilateral arms control and non-proliferation efforts, even more urgent today. We affirm that the treaty has an essential role to play in strengthening global peace and security. This role should be recognized by all of us.

4. We call upon all States that have not yet signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force. To help bring this about, we will make representations as appropriate, individually or together, including at regional and multilateral meetings, in order to make the treaty a focus of attention at the highest political levels. The scientific community, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society also have a role to play in raising awareness of and in strengthening support for the treaty.

5. We call upon all States to continue a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Voluntary adherence to such a moratorium is of the highest importance, but cannot serve as a substitute for entry into force of the treaty. Only the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty offers to the global community the prospect of a permanent and legally binding commitment to end nuclear testing.

6. We consider that it is vital to maintain momentum in building the verification machinery so that it is ready to guarantee compliance with the Treaty. We appeal to all States signatories to make available the financial resources needed to build and

operate the verification system as soon as possible, through the full and timely payment of assessed contributions. Completing the verification system foreseen in the treaty by its entry into force will ensure a high level of confidence that States are maintaining their treaty commitments.

7. The verification system will be unprecedented in its global reach. In addition to its primary function, it will bring scientific and civil benefits, particularly to developing countries, through technology transfer and exchange of scientific know-how, as a result of the installation and use of seismic, radionuclide, infrasound and hydroacoustic networks. Moreover, technical cooperation between States can help to enhance the already impressive verification capabilities under the treaty. We will be seeking ways to ensure that cooperation among States signatories allows for effective technical assistance, and we call upon other States to join us in this endeavour.

8. We will spare no effort in seeking to realize the vision of a ban on nuclear weapon test explosions, which culminated in conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, and invite our fellow Foreign Ministers to join us in this task.

Alexander Downer
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

Betina Ferrero-Waldner
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria

Vilayat Quliyev
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mikhail Khvostov
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Louis Michel
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium

Solomon Passy
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

William Graham
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada

Maria Soledad Alvear Valenzuela
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile

Tonino Picula
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Cyril Svoboda
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Per Stig Moeller
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Kristiina Ojuland
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia

Keliopate Tavola
Minister for Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Sugar of the
Republic of the Fiji Islands

Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland

Dominique Galouzeau de Villepin
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic

Joschka Fischer
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

Georgios Papandreou
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

László Kovács
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary

Halldór Ásgrímsson
Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
of the Republic of Iceland

Brian Cowen
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland

Silvio Berlusconi
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy

Keith Desmond Knight
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Jamaica

Yoriko Kawaguchi
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Marwan Muasher
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Marsden Herman Madoka
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
of the Republic of Kenya

Teburoro Tito
President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kiribati

Antanas Valionis
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Lydie Polfer
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Joseph Borg
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Phil Goff
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand

Alhaji Sule Lamido
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Jan Petersen
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway

Jorge Enrique Halphen Perez
for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Panama

Allan Wagner Tizón
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru

Blas F. Ople
Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines

Wladzimierz Cimoszewicz
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Antonio Martins da Cruz
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Portugal

Choi Sung-hong
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea

Mircea Geoana
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania

Igor S. Ivanov
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Eduard Kukan
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Dimitrij Rupel
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

Ana Palacio
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain

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Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Joseph Deiss
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation

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Jack Straw
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
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Abdulaziz Kamilov
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan